



Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:

May 20-26, 2013

Northern Snakehead

Channa argus

Origin: Native to China, Korea, and Russia.

Means of Introduction: Released from fish markets and possibly from pet owners.

Description: Overall color is brown with dark blotches. Long, thin body that can grow to 47 inches. Somewhat flattened head; dorsal and anal fins elongated, and all fins are supported by rays. Voracious predators!

Distribution: Established in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, and Arkansas. In 2004, a fish was collected in Burnham Harbor in downtown Chicago. NO REPORTS YET IN MICHIGAN- if you catch this fish **DO NOT PUT IT BACK IN THE WATER!** Call the nearest DNR Operations Service Center!

Unique feature: Can breathe out of water from 3 to 7 days! A

snakehead also has the ability to move from one body of water to another by using its pectoral fins. These adaptations give snakehead a competitive edge over native fishes in securing habitat and expanding its range.

Similar species: Bowfin and burbot (see below). For more information on Northern Snakehead and their look-a-likes, visit the Michigan DNR's website at www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies.



Photos: U.S. Geological Survey Archive, USGS, Bugwood.org



NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD



BOWFIN- NATIVE



BURBOT- NATIVE